

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 094535
ORIGIN FAA-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPT ATC PLANS

REF: CAIRO 5599

1. MR. MOHAMED KHATTAB, DIRECTOR GENERAL AERONAUTICS/
EGYPT, PAID VISIT TO FAA WESTERN AREA BRANCH, TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DURING WEEK OF APRIL 4, 1977, TO
DISCUSS VARIOUS CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS. THESE DISCUSSIONS
FOCUSED ON EGYPT'S IMPENDING CIVIL AVIATION IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM AND THE FACT THAT SOFREAVIA IS ACTING AS CONSULTANT
IN PREPARATION OF SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE ENTIRE EGYPTIAN
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) SYSTEM. LATTER CONFIRMS
PARA. 3 REFTEL AND WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE FRENCH MANUFACTUR-
ERS SUBSTANTIAL, OR EVEN DECISIVE ADVANTAGE OVER U.S.
COMPETITION.

2. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT PURCHASE OF U.S. PRODUCTS
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BRINGS WITH IT A HISTORY OF DEVELOPMENT, OPERATIONS,
AND LOGISTICS SUPPORT OFTEN LACKING IN PROTOTYPE SYSTEMS
DEVELOPED SPECIFICALLY FOR A PARTICULAR CONTRACT WHICH,
WE UNDERSTAND, IS USUALLY THE CASE WITH SOFREAVIA. IT
WAS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT FAA CAN OFFER A BROAD
RANGE OF EXPERTISE IN SUPPORT OF AVIATION DEVELOPMENT
EFFORTS. THIS COULD INCLUDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT IN THE

EVENT OF COMPATIBLE EQUIPMENTS, CONTINUOUS ENGINEERING
UP-DATE, TECHNICAL ADVICE, ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.

3. IT WAS SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THAT FAA'S RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE
COMPUTER MODELING OF AN ATC SYSTEM. THIS COULD ENABLE
EGYPT TO DETERMINE THE BEST ROUTE STRUCTURES BASED ON
SAFETY, ECONOMICS AND PRACTICALITY BEFORE IMPLEMENTING
ITS PROGRAM. THIS IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE SINCE
SOFREAVIA, WHOM FAA DOES NOT BELIEVE HAS THIS CAPABILITY,
WOULD HAVE TO CONTRACT WITH EUROCONTROL OR SOME OTHER
ORGANIZATION WHICH DOES. THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN
DETAIL AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT EGYPTIAN AVIATION
OFFICIALS PERSONALLY OBSERVE THAT PARTICULAR PHASE
SINCE THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PROGRAM MAY WELL BE DEPENDENT
UPON IT.

4. MR. KHATTAB INQUIRED INTO THE FEASIBILITY OF A
GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT WHEREBY FAA WOULD
ACT AS THEIR AGENT. FAA ADVISED HIM THAT WHILE IT
COULD PROVIDE A BROAD RANGE OF TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT FAA COULD FEASIBLY BECOME
PROCURING AGENCY FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM.
RATHER, WITH RESPECT TO PROCUREMENT, FAA MIGHT PROVIDE
ASSISTANCE IN AREAS SUCH AS SPECIFICATIONS, TEST, AND
ACCEPTANCE.

5. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS WITH AID/W LEAVES FAA WITH
THE IMPRESSION THAT CIP (COMMODITIES IMPORT PROGRAM)
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WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE AVENUE FOR EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT
IN CONCERT WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SECURED FROM FAA,
UNLESS SPECIFICATIONS MENTIONED PARA. 3 REFTEL AND
RELATED GOE DECISIONS EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDE U.S. EQUIPMENT.

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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